

Subject: [Roma_India] Essay "Dedication to Romany Day"

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A WINTER MESSAGE FROM THE SOUTH COAST OF GREAT BRITAIN

Dedicated to the re-emergence of an emancipated Romany Nation.

As if horses are my mind

I yearn to be free

By the beat of their hooves...

Dear colleagues, friends, Romalen,

Despite the fact that January is mid-winter and beginning of the new year, a large number of communications concerning our problems could be found on 'Travnet', that were written by British members as well as foreign Roma Diaspora.

These communications at the end of January reminded me spiritually, as well as temperamentally, during the beginning and middle of last summer of the Roma/Travellers movement in UK.

For example, writing on Travnet in January:

1. **Len Smith** (29.01.03. Ch-5 – Auschwitz tonight): ... Jonathan Steinberg from Pennsylvania University did not once mention in his interview about Roma genocide.
2. **Donald Kenrick** - 29.01.03. noted: the Scottish government simply forgot to invite Roma Community representatives to annual Holocaust ceremony that took place in Edinburgh.

3. UK Home Office, 29.01.03. Mentioned: "...a number of references within the **HISTORICAL NARRATIVE** to the genocide against the Roma by the Nazis".

Does it not sound too marginal?

Dear friends, the information coming from Roma Diaspora abroad, sounds no less sad:

1. 10,000 Roma – refugees are deported from Germany to Kosovo and Serbia. Who will compensate their family losses, property destroyed and lost and the traumatic disruption of their lives?
2. Romanian government has made a decision not to let Roma leave the country's territory, which is a harsh breach of Human Rights, equal to a renaissance of slavery in the ancient Romanian Kingdoms.
3. The British immigration service maintain an office within Prague airport, specifically to

prevent Roma people journeying to the United Kingdom. This is racist and discriminatory.

4. Lastly, the information about the unethical medical activities of my Slovakian colleagues

(doctors) concerning sterilisation of Romany women. Further, I am receiving disturbing

reports from a respected colleague, that similar practices are also occurring in Romania at the present time. These horrors made me dive into deep thoughts.

Dear friends, in my opinion we should not be surprised that European Romany

Community are not much mentioned in the Holocaust context. *Actually Romany Nation is not recognized as a nation that underwent genocide.*

Yes, in this context genocide was recognised by attitude of our brotherly Jewish People. Today, we Roma are grateful to them. After Second War Jewish community around the world received grants for investigations on the Holocaust from some of the economic leaders of its own community. As well, other international programs directed at the Jewish Nation gave some part of that financial support from pure heart and mercy to naively emerged Romany public organisations to hold similar investigations about genocide of European Romany Community by nazi Germany and its satellites (Austria, Italy, Romania, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and etc.)

I, as many others, frequently ask myself a question: who else gave financial support for undertaking such investigations at that time? No one! And no government in the World!

Despite the fact that a lot of materials were destroyed by both German governments (Federal Germany and the government of the Soviet zone) after the Second World War, regarding materials on Romany genocide today we have a lot to display! As well we have our Romany experts and world standard specialists that may give adequate evaluation regarding this tragedy for millions of Roma.

Today many people in the Europe Community and in the World ask themselves a question, where such racism in Europe towards Roma comes from (especially in its Eastern and Central part of Europe)?

I find a simple answer to this question: firstly- there is much historical practice of racism; secondly – an absence of co-ordinated and targeted, and more importantly purposeful actions, from the side of World national Romany Movement for Human Rights and Le Gagen World (non Roma) as well.

Romale, we have two major up coming events:

All UK Romany Conference (2003) and 6th World Romany Congress in April 2004 .

In my opinion, All UK Romany Conference should elaborate:

1. Create an internal political platform of the British Romany Community , that has in the future to encourage members of our community to be sufficiently educated and committed to become elected members of the British Parliament.

Especially this echelon will have to be used by Romany Leaders in realisation of internal Romany policy on the territory of Great Britain & Northern Ireland, as well as to harmonise and realise the international dimension.

2. DEFINITIONS to elaborate in a socio-political aspect, as well as locally defining what is the meaning of the designation '**Rom**'?:

- a. what is the meaning of the term '**Romany Nation**'?
- b. to give explanations in above mentioned context to **DIFFERENCES** between that part of

the Romany Nation which has a constant or seasonal traveller mode of life and other

Traveller people.

Dear Romale, those **definitions** at this moment for the European Romany community as well as locally in the UK are most important, for the simple reason it will be impossible to speak seriously about the integration process without them. This is what I think we should to do next:

By their proper names in the context of **EVOLUTION** as science as well as emergence and development of any nation **it requires a new revised theory on Romany ethnicity:**

1. implementation of scientific works and creation of revised theory, their defence on scientific councils; it will serve as a basis during the creation of legislative acts as in UK and in an international context as well;
2. Also - it is our political purpose in the context of legislation, preparation of legislative measures and their submitting for consideration by the British Parliament.

Yes, we Roma should learn how to create high standard laws, which could be comprehensible for all levels of society and only then they will these be supported.

The last way was used by many nations, which today are great. No doubt, to combine approaches will give the best result.

To my great disappointment and of many of my colleagues in Roma National Movement for Human Rights in the World, Romany and non-Romany scientists concentrated their attention on **I N D I A** for centuries and still can not get rid of that idea, in terms of Ethnology as science and of Romology in particular. **Where is the fresh breeze of the new millennium?**

As many others I have a feeling that certain people are interested in suppression of alternative views and their development. Never mind; as a Russian proverb says: " It is impossible to conceal, to hide truth in the bag ".

Romalen, the next choice consists in the perception that we shall not lie to ourselves and mislead Le Gagen for an instant profit, as happened when during the negotiations of our ancestors with the Pope in the 15th century when **the term G Y P S Y** emerged (a Romany legend is still alive).

At present moment, Le Gagen is long lost in the among the fog of terminology:

A) Roma- as ethnos, Roma- as a travelling people, Roma –as a travelling tribe,

Roma- as Nation;

B) Roma, GYPSY, Roma/Gypsy, Roma and Gypsy, Roma and Travellers,

Gypsy travellers, Le Gagen travellers (also with a thousand years' traditions),

New travellers of modern times;

My dear friends, as we used to say in Eastern Europe "Even the Devil will break his own neck himself !"

Lawyer Rachel Morris unified everybody and she appeared to be far-sighted, although a few trivial points of argument could be underlined. Nevertheless, in my opinion, it underlines that the theory about Romany Ethnicity needs revision, as different levels of Le Gagen World are using Romany history and prefer Romany philosophical ideas and model of life. Consequently, we the

Romany Nation shall, on universal hospitality laws, declare one of our strategic

directions in Romany World Policy – " Welcome to our World Romany Family". And I consider it as one of many evolutionary momentums of today in the establishment of Roma as a Nation. Here is the

clue to legal and international law of understanding of Roma - Nation (but not people, not ethnus, not travelling tribe).

Dear colleagues, without these definitions in the context of above mentioned parameters, there is no point to think about a just and fair international processes, not just in this country only but in Europe and the rest of the world as well.

I am more than convinced that Le Gagen are glad to start co-operation in all aspects of Romany issues, as we have the richest peaceful history in the World as transmitted around the world for thousands of years our ancestors did not harm the environment at all. Nevertheless Le Gagen understand that they have no right to define the other nations as ***THIS IS OUR ROMANY EXCEPTIONAL RIGHT, TO IDENTIFY OURSELVES WITHIN THE FAMILY OF NATIONS OF THIRD MILLENNIUM, AS WE CONSIDER IT FIT .***

Romalen, I think that, we should invite international experts of Romany nationality from the other countries and from European Romany Human Right Centre, in their capacity as experts, for participation in work of our conference. And this means that the definitions elaborated by All UK Romany Conference will get immediately International expertise.

1. To give correct historically proven and scientifically founded, socio-political explanation to term G Y P S Y and declare our firm decision and requirement within the word from all mass media and broadcast. At present it bears a stressful shape, expresses negativism and a racially discriminating attitude with the subsequent inadequate actions of many millions of people from non-Roma world, which at the end leads to destructive and destabilising processes in society.
2. Selection of representatives for working in European Roma Forum is the next mission of All UK Romany Conference.
3. Dear friends, as the 6th World Romany Congress is potentially epoch-making, because of timing (beginning of 3rd Millennium) spirit and content (creation of United all – European Home and new design of stability and peace on planet).

As in the historical past, as well as in the conditions of new (multi polar) architecture of peace and stability in the world, UK – are a linking bridge between four continents:

Old civilisation (Euro-Asian and African continents) and New civilisation (American and Australian continents). Iraqi crisis is a bright example of this function. CONSEQUENTLY, I am deeply convinced that All UK Romany Conference should elaborate its own proposals in the context of 1st WORLD ROMANY UNIVERSAL and this thesis must be presented to 6th World Romany Congress Organizational Committee.

Dear friends, this is the way that all Roma National-Cultural Movement for Human Rights in all countries should follow. But unfortunately, having one year and as was shown absence of the striving in the coordination of preparatory 6th World Romany Congress, I have decided as member of Trans-European Roma Federation to give one question to British Romany Council and All UK GB & North Ireland Romany Community:

- **Are you are ready to take in your own hands the preparation period and conduct of 6th World Romany Congress? Because by last time was shown how the architecture of World Romany Movement was changed significantly, and the Romany Community of UK as a country on the crossroads of all world roads have to have its own destination.**

That should to be next point of agenda All UK GB & North Ireland Romany Conference, in my opinion.

Dear colleagues, as a member of Trans-European Roma Federation I am proposing for **DISCUSSION** within the context of 1st WORLD ROMANY UNIVERSAL the following items that in my opinion are important: **Romany – European nation. It was formed on the territory of modern Europe during more than 1500 years. Due to wide dispersal the Romany population does not have its own territory.**

1. No source known to mankind witnesses that the ancestors of Roma treated the **INDIAN (Dravidic civilisation)** national attributes as their own: alphabet and writing, statehood and religion or were adopted by them during the long lasting migration process.
2. The early ancestors of modern Roma being a related people in **GREAT ARAYAN TRIBAL UNION** together with the other 14 relative peoples were

- moving to the south, forced to do so by earth cataclysms of the Ice Age and the cold of the early post-Ice Age period on our planet.
3. Consequently, **INDIA**, as a country and territory in the history of Romany ancestors, which

historically formed in Europe IS JUST A SOJOURN IN OUR LONG LASTING MIGRATION TIME.

AND THIS INFORMATION IS COMPLETELY FIXED ON THE MATRIX OF

CORRESPONDING MOLECULAR STRUCTURES IN MEMORY CELLS

OF THE HUMAN BODY .

4. Moved by planetary cataclysms the ancestors of Romany Nation reached India having their own culture. I think that in future the science will unveil the circumstances that brought to its complete degradation on the territory of this country. But I believe that that ancient culture is going to be reborn in modern civilization.
5. Interpretation of crucial medico- socio – political analyses of large genetically-based researches (within the frame work of major Human Rights Charters), held in European Romany Community at the end of 20th century should also to be included into agenda of the 6th World Romany Congress.

In Europe Roma experienced two separate holocausts (Medieval and the nazi Holocaust). As a result of genocide of Roma of last World War more than 80% of European Romany Community was liquidated.

According to researches held by UN Development Programme, at the present moment more than 3 million Roma experience daily hunger in Central-Eastern Europe. This is a large-scale social phenomenon and in the context of the actuality of Romany issues in Europe and in the World (murder, persecution, segregation, inequality before justice) illustrate the dramatic conditions of ***MODERN 3rd ROMANY PARAJMOS.***

Neither the NUREMBERG TRIAL PROCESSES nor any of the post-war or democratic governments of West or East GERMANY legally or de-facto

recognised genocide of European Romany Community during World War II, despite the fact some Romany were later included into some compensation programmes.

- The 6th World Romany Congress and European Romany Forum applies to governments of countries who were signatories to the Nuremberg Process, asking to organise World Conference within the framework of UN and Security Council and to start revision of this historically important document for European Romany Nation within the context of genocide-PARAJMOS by German Third Reich and its satellites during World War II.
This is our demand, as a European Romany Nation. It is peaceful and historically justified, which will help the Romany nation to make good progress in integration, to become a participant, not an outsider and witness to construction of a European Nation.

And lastly, dear colleagues, Romalen,

It could be useful if everybody interested in the work of All UK Romany Conference and in Historical 6th World Romany Congress, would present his or her proposals.

It will give a possibility to classify them, to set an agenda for discussion.

It would be wonderful if we could come to our Conference having a protocol. It would serve as evidence that all of us worked for the benefit of our Romany Nation and society as a whole, enjoying at the same time our co-operation in the name of peace and progress. Let me at this optimistic point wish everybody good health, happiness and prosperity.

Te aves bahtale Romale!